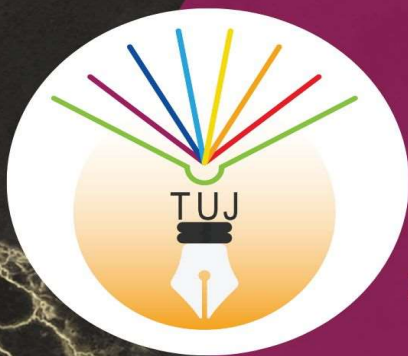


**Volume 01
Issue 05
March 2023**

ISSN: 2582-6352



The UNiVerse Journal

**A Quarterly Refereed
Open-Acess Multidisciplinary
e-journal of Humanities.**

**Editor-in-chief:
C.P.Pathakk**

**Indexed Journal
Peer-reviewed**

An International Quarterly Refereed Open Access
e-Journal

<https://www.theuniversejournal.com/index.php>

<https://www.theuniversejournal.com/edboard.php>

https://www.theuniversejournal.com/current_issue.php

https://www.theuniversejournal.com/join_us.php



Weed of doubt

Christopher Antony

The New Delhi based son, while chatting over the phone with his cousin in Ernakulam, Kerala, South India, got wind of some serious problem brewing between his parents leading a retired life there. He was embarrassed to probe for details though an uneasiness hurriedly ran in his veins. He got so much worried that, putting aside his family and work commitments, not to talk of financial constraints, he took the first available flight to Cochin.

His parents were pleasantly surprised to see him arrive. Everything seemed to be normal. After food, they sat around for a chat. After chatting for a long time, gradually the matter for the rift between the parents started emerging. There was a serious trust deficit. Both of them were going on and on, interrupting each other, blaming each other, raising their voices. It was a struggle for the son to silence the parents and urging that they retire for the day.

The next day, the son had great difficulty in convincing the parents that they seek counselling. They were taken to a reputed counselling centre. Both parents were spoken to separately and together. It emerged that the husband strongly suspected, actually convinced, that his wife was having an illicit relationship for a long time. This had led to frequent quarrels between them, even leading to being physical.

The son was told at the counselling centre that it would be dangerous for the parents to live by themselves without anyone else at home. He was told that his father was just imagining things and would need counselling. But that for the counselling to be

effective, he would need to be on medication first. When the father was told about taking medicines, he outrightly rejected it saying that there was nothing wrong with him to take medicines.

The son thought that it was best to take his parents over to New Delhi and seek medical help there. He asked for a report of their findings to produce in New Delhi, but they didn't want to commit in writing though they did say verbally very emphatically that it was a strong case of suspicion illness.

This suspicion illness had been there even before for a couple of decades or so when they were there in New Delhi with children. But the children were not aware as it was then, apparently, not a very serious problem. It was a problem that should have been tackled at that beginning stage. All kinds of problems need to be attended at the early stage itself so that the problem doesn't aggravate and get out of hand. It was, on retirement, after they relocated to Pathadipaalam in Ernakulam that the problem accelerated.

The son convinced the parents to move to New Delhi for a short stay. There, both parents were subjected to another round of tests and interviews by a psychiatrist and psychologist at a reputed hospital, again coming to the conclusion that the problem of suspicion was severe with the husband and that medicines would have to be administered to keep it under check. Here again, he insisted that nothing was wrong with him, refused the suggestion of medication and wanting that his wife be hypnotised to bring out that she was cheating on him.

This hospital, too, were vague in their assessment given by way of a report, not wanting to put it down in writing everything that was said emphatically. Why is it that when it boils down to mental illness there is a hold back of revealing in black and white the exact picture as assessed? Or, is it that they are not cent percent sure? Is it so, in all such cases? Would some expert want to open up on this?

Nothing came out of the efforts of the children to reconcile their parents as their father would solidly and stubbornly stick to his stupid beliefs and thoughts without an iota of proof whatsoever, even nothing to doubt the least. What his sick mind told him was proof enough for him. Though he went on abusing and mentally torturing his wife, he projected a pleasant disposition to the outside world with extra fine manners and exaggerated courtesy, wanting to please, to the extent of flattery, all and sundry. Is that a symptom of suspicion illness?

The sickness in his mind could have found root decades ago. The problem in early days when most marriages were arranged marriages was that some marriages weren't between fully consenting minds. Though they manage to get on well even for a long period in their married life, that doesn't last as the devil of unfulfilled desire that was lying dormant in the archive of their mind becomes active. Unable to go back in time, frustration sets in and sometimes takes the form of suspicion, marring the present and the future. Such minds dredge up old hurt and digs out new dirt. Not that the scourge of suspicion is not there in so-called love marriages, but may be, on a much smaller scale.

The warring couple went back to their abode in Pathadipalam, the vernacular Malayalam for ten-foot bridge. They only had to take 'pathh adi', that is ten steps, to reconcile. But the cancer of suspicion had become irreparable, yet largely hidden

and unknown to most people. They slept separately under the same roof, hurting each other emotionally but, surprisingly, helping each other physically in household chores. This was the only silver lining and saving grace in their drab life.

The ageing couple had saved enough for their sunset years by investing in income generating and wealth creating financial instruments and could have lived a tension free happy life, enjoying the fruits of their labour, without being a burden or botheration for their children. But now they seem to be bent on destroying what they built, the anger and frustration weakening their physical immunity and shortening their life, which may be a good thing. Why to live unduly long when the relationship is strained?

The son came down to Ernakulam again from New Delhi to make a last-ditch effort to drive some sense into the sick mind of his father. Arguably, suspicion is inborn in females. Only the intensity or degree of it or whatever varies from female to female. And when what seems to find a place in females creeps into a man it can be very creepy. Some parents do not understand how much concerned the children are about them. They do not understand how much tension they give their children, very much more than what the children gave their parents when young.

As a cooling effect, he took his parents to the hill station Munnar, Kerala. They went about sightseeing. On the second day, on one such outing, as the son was walking together with their vehicle driver a little ahead of his parents, he was shaken with a scream of his mother and a weakening sound of his father. His father had tripped, slipped and was falling into a gorge below.

The son was too shocked to act on what to do. But the driver, being an experienced local guy in the know of such situations, summoned courage and quickly sought help from the authorities. The dead body was recovered with much difficulty and released to the son as there was nothing to suspect the least.

The other children, working in different cities, also came down on receiving the sad news. The rituals over, each of the children volunteered to take their mother over to their place. But the mother was adamant that she be on her own alone. The children wondered and had this nagging doubt whether the mother, who was as healthy as the father, if not healthier, could have pushed down their father to eliminate him. They wondered whether their mother actually had an illicit affair as was claimed by their father. But they didn't talk to each other about such thoughts. It is essential that everything, even the silliest claim, the silliest doubt is thoroughly probed at the right time, to avoid silly misgivings later.